

Nursery NOTES

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 2012

& Landscape



North Carolina Nursery
& Landscape Association

Publication of the North Carolina Nursery & Landscape Association, Inc.

Vol. 46 • No 5

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Arboretum Partnerships Keep Growing, and
Student News**





After

Natural set stone patios connected by boulder slab steps and plantings transition from the driveway and guest parking areas to residence's front entry. The challenge was sequencing since this approach was built from the bottom up to meet the finished entry floor elevation.

NCNLA Presents 2012 Excellence In The Landscape Awards

NCNLA presented its 2012 Excellence in the Landscape Awards during the Summer Green Road Show in Hickory on August 9. This year the Association gave out two awards; a Grand Award to Greenleaf Services for its Sutton Residence project and a Merit Award to Turftenders for its Pratt Residence project.

The *Excellence in the Landscape Awards* program reflects NCNLA's commitment to promote high standards of professional, quality and sustainable landscape design, installation and maintenance. The program recognizes and awards landscape professionals who execute these landscape projects.

A luncheon was served following the award presentation.

Before



Equipment operators had to dig trenches, backfill with gravel and grade the site to exact standards to accomplish the grade change so that the frontyard and backyard met seamlessly once the project was completed.

Masonry walls and boulders were installed for bank retainage. Concealed below is a complex matrix system that conveys run-off from the mountainside away from the house and exterior spaces.



After

An aggregate pea gravel drainage path joins the rear patio and front terrace. Boulders and all site materials could be brought to the job site only 15 tons at a time on straight trucks due to space and grade restraints. Equipment operators worked with precision to set boulders weighing upwards of 6,000 lbs apiece.



Before

Grand Award / Landscape Installation - Residential

Greenleaf Services Inc. ♦ Project: Sutton Residence

Greenleaf Service Inc. helped its client renovate a complex mountain residence using innovative drainage techniques, custom equipment procedures, and native materials. Literally working on the confined mountainscape, Greenleaf moved 6,000 lb boulders, dealt with a mismarked sewer system, and simultaneously built the front and backyard areas to meet seamlessly with multiple functions to help with drainage, support, and pedestrian access. In the end, the company created natural-set stone patios, a waterfall, a stone pedestrian bridge, and native-plant landscaping that all lived up to the natural beauty surrounding the mountain site.

See **Excellence in the Landscape Awards** – continued on page 28

Merit Award / Landscape Management - Residential

Turftenders Landscape Services ♦ Project: Pratt Residence



When pruning the larger hollies at the front of the home, it is important to the resident that plants stay uniform in size. Rather than "meat balling" some of the smaller hollies in the photo are allowed to grow together into a hedge as part of the design intent.

Turftenders developed and maintains this 4-acre residence which maximizes the areas close to the home for entertaining and outdoor living. With the property perimeter backing up to a state park and nearly 20 feet of natural elevation change across the backyard, the company planned careful solutions to attend to site issues. Weekly maintenance is responsible for mowing, fertilization, seeding, special pruning, a 25-zone irrigation system, a low-voltage lighting system with four transformers and nearly 100 fixtures, and maintaining a deer fence to save perennial and annual plants.



A small pocket of turf in the backyard sets adjacent to a small patio, water feature and perennial garden. Due to the narrow walkways, access to the back is limited and all turf must be push mowed in these areas. Hidden behind the berm of plants, a deer fence affords protection of various perennials, annual beds and potted plants (separate micro-spray zones used for irrigation of pots).

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A view from the garden at night highlights some of the small details. Ceramic containers add color to the area while creeping plants soften the hard edge of the pool deck. Contractor is also responsible for a four-transmitter, 100-fixture, lighting system to ensure the customer can enjoy the landscaping day or night.

2013 Excellence in the Landscape Awards

NCNLA encourages all landscapers to apply for an award in 2013. The *Excellence in the Landscape Awards* also:

- ❁ Promotes Your Work Quality – Only the best can say they are award-winning contractors.
- ❁ Builds Customer Relationships – Your client will be thrilled that their contractor has won an award for their property; and will spread the word to other potential clients.
- ❁ Motivates Employees – Reinforce your team is doing a good job, and motivate them to continue to improve.
- ❁ Builds a Photo Library – Documenting your hard work will help you better explain the details of new jobs to prospective clients.

Award Categories Include:

- ❖ Landscape Installation
- ❖ Landscape Design/Build
- ❖ Landscape Management
- ❖ Container Plantings
- ❖ Ecological Plantings
- ❖ Sustainable Landscape
- ❖ Heritage Award
- ❖ Decade Award

NCNLA is striving to increase public awareness of environmental improvement through landscape contractors' use of quality and sustainable materials and workmanship. Each entry may be awarded a GRAND, MERIT, or DISTINCTION Award based upon the judging criteria. There are no limits to the number of awards given out. All award winners will be featured in *Nursery & Landscape Notes*, and a media kit will be sent out to local, state, and national media for recognition.

Show off your hard work. Enter your favorite projects to earn prestige and elevate your firm! Contact the NCNLA office or visit <http://www.ncnla.com/pubs-awards.php> for an application.